

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. In view of the above amendment and the discussion below.

Applicants' invention, as defined by independent claim 23 concerns a thermal spray coating method wherein images of a plasma jet or particle jet are recorded. The previous rejection of now canceled claims 1, 4, 8-17 and 19 as unpatentable over Savkar, U.S. Patent No. 5,047,612 in view Hill U.S. Patent No. 5,633,123 are traversed in light of claim 23 which provides an essential difference from the primary reference to Savkar. The presently claimed invention records images of a plasma jet and or particle jet. These images show flying particles with high velocities and high temperatures whereas the reference to Savkar records images of the layer which refers to "stationary" particles having a zero velocity. Claim 23 begins with recording of images of a plasma jet and/or particle which is clearly not occurring in the reference to Savkar or in the secondary reference to Hill.

Independent claim 23 also provides that, within the formed images, at least one region of equal intensity and/or at least one region within a particular intensity level is assigned to one or more symmetric geometrical surface regions by computer processing. The presently defined invention improves over the prior art discussed in the Background of the Invention because it allows information from the entirety of the spray coating method to be reduced to a small amount of

information which, in turn, allows a simple mathematical supported process diagnostic.

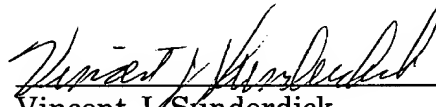
It is submitted that because Savkar records images of the deposit layer and not images of the plasma jet it is not the same as or an obvious variation of the present invention and it does not provide data processing as specified in the independent claim 23 with respect to the specific step accomplished by the data processing.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that this application containing independent claim 23 and dependent claims 24-38 be allowed and be passed to issue.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #03873348722).

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Vincent J. Sunderdick  
Registration No. 29,004

September 13, 2004

CROWELL & MORING LLP  
Intellectual Property Group  
P.O. Box 14300  
Washington, DC 20044-4300  
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500  
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844  
VJS/lvb  
337481